

*Series: I Wish I'd Asked That; Sermon: "How do we Know it's all true?"*

*Delivered on March 17, 2019, by Dr. Josh Moody, senior pastor*

**Bible text explored: John 14:8–21**

<sup>8</sup>Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” <sup>9</sup>Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? <sup>10</sup>Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup>Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

<sup>12</sup>“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup>Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

<sup>15</sup>“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, <sup>17</sup>even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

<sup>18</sup>“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. <sup>19</sup>Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup>In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup>Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”

[ESV]

**Review and Application**

1. Pastor Moody said the discovery of spiritual truth results not so much from our search for God as from his search for us. How (vv. 9-10) did the divine Author write himself into his own story?
2. What evidence (v. 11), observed for three years, did Jesus say should have persuaded Philip of his divine status?
3. Only Jesus died for the sins of the world and rose from the dead, so in what sense (v.12) have his followers accomplished greater works than he?
4. What is the meaning of Jesus promise (vv. 13-14) to do anything requested in his name?

Is simply closing our prayers by repeating “in Jesus’ name” an adequate response to this promise?

Would it be more meaningful if, before making a request, we ask ourselves is this something Jesus could really sign off on?

5. Why (v. 15) is doing what Jesus tells his disciples to do the most reliable gauge of their (or our) love for him?

*In vv. 16-18, the Greek word paraclete is rendered Helper (and, in other versions, Counselor or Advocate). Pastor Josh suggested thinking Coach: filling the same role Jesus had played for them.*

6. How may a history of controversy about the role of the Holy Spirit have inadvertently led to minimizing his vital role in our lives?

How can we maintain balance in what we know and feel about the Spirit?

7. How can we welcome the Spirit of truth to come alongside and . . .
  - . . . open our eyes?
  - . . . soften our hearts?